

Taken From Mrs. King's Blog Linked below, but I LOVE my sticks! Like her, I don't use them every day, but when I need a quick match its easy, or when classrooms don't have classroom numbers it makes for real easy randomizing.



First of all, I numbered the sticks. This helped me if I wanted to take out the extra sticks for smaller classes. I made 34 sticks. My largest class was 27. I had a few back-ups just in case someone sneezed on one or stuffed it in their ear or mouth or something unacceptable. The number allowed me to divide the group into odd or even. Awesome.

Hmmm. The kids caught on to my other tricks quickly so I didn't want them to anticipate that would be the only way I would pick partners. I needed more. I added another way to divide the group in two: treble clef and bass clef.

To divide the group into 3 I drew a quarter note, quarter rest of barred eighth notes at the tip of a craft stick. I did these in order. #1 was a quarter note, #2 was a quarter rest, #3 was barred eighth notes, and so on. This helped me keep things even.

To divide into 4 groups I wrote the instrument families on the sticks: brass, woodwind, percussion and strings.

Suddenly it hit me! I could use these group sorters for learning activities too! What if I said "If you have a stick with the family name that the trumpet belongs to, line up."

To divide into 5 groups I added colored dot alternating 5 different colors.

Next I added rhythm patterns. I created the rhythms simple enough so that I could use them with 1st through 6th grades. Each rhythm pattern could be found on two sticks. If I had a few extra minutes in class I could say "Find the person that has the same 4 beat rhythm pattern as you. Clap the pattern and stand beside each other." A few more minutes and I might say "Find 3 other people that have different rhythms than you and make a pattern of 4 measures."

At this point, I still had just a little bit of space left on these wooden warriors of the classroom. I decided that adding instrument names would be my last addition. I added the names of instruments of all 4 instrument families. For my third graders who reviewed instrument families all second semester, this gave me lots of options for grouping, identifying instruments, sorting by family, spelling instrument names and more.

<http://mrskingrocks.blogspot.com/2015/07/classroom-groups-with-craft-sticks.html>